

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A specimen-inspection preprocessing apparatus comprising:

a ~~desk-type~~ housing; and

a plurality of specimen processing units arranged on the ~~desk-type~~ housing, at least some of the plurality of specimen processing units each include a rotary conveying mechanism, wherein the plurality of specimen processing units include:

a master-specimen carry-in unit provided on a specimen operating surface of the housing, for carrying in a master specimen contained in a master-specimen container;

a usable-region detection unit for detecting a usable region of the master specimen carried in by the master-specimen carry-in unit;

a stopper-removing unit for removing a stopper of the master-specimen container containing the master specimen;

a slave-specimen container supply unit for supplying an empty slave-specimen container;

a label issuing unit for preparing an identification label and attaching the identification label to the slave-specimen container supplied from the slave-specimen container supply unit;

a pipetting tip supply unit for supplying a disposable pipetting tip;

a pipetting unit on which the pipetting tip supplied from the pipetting tip supply unit is mounted and which aliquots, through the pipetting tip, the master specimen from the master-specimen container from which the stopper is removed by the stopper-removing unit and then dispenses, through the pipetting tip, a slave specimen into the slave-specimen container to which the identification label is attached;

a slave-specimen carry-out unit for carrying out the slave specimen dispensed into the slave-specimen container by the pipetting unit; and

a master-specimen container carry-out unit for carrying out the master-specimen container after the aliquot operation is performed.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rotary conveying mechanism includes:

a turntable having a plurality of holding sections on a peripheral portion thereof, the holding sections holding a plurality of objects to be conveyed ~~such as specimen containers;~~

a driving motor for turning the turntable;

a turning control device for controlling the driving motor to temporarily stop the turntable when the turntable turns a predetermined angle; and

carry-in/carry-out means for carrying the objects into/out of the holding sections of the turntable temporarily stopping after the turntable turns the predetermined angle, in synchronization with a control operation of the turning control device.

3. Canceled.